

New Lizards from South America.

Collected by Nils Holmgren and A. Roman.

By

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During a journey for entomological purposes to the Amazonas Doctor A. ROMAN has made a small collection of batrachians and lizards, which he presented to the Vertebrate Department of the Royal Museum of Nat. History, Stockholm. By the kindness of the keeper of this department, Professor E. LÖNNBERG, I have get an opportunity of examining them, and by this the collection proved to contain six species of frogs, all well known before, viz. *Bufo typhonius* L., *Hyla rubra* DAUD., *H. punctata* SCHN., *H. appendiculata* BLGR, *H. aurantiaca* DAUD., and *H. leucophyllata* BEIRIS. Of the four species of lizards, however, no less than three will be described as new below: *Sphærodactylus amazonicus*, *Teretioscincus romani* and *Mabuia nigropalmata*.

Strange to say, I have also found among some unexamined lizards, brought home from Bolivia by Dr. N. HOLMGREN, this same species of *Mabuia*, and moreover a species of *Uraniscodon*, which I am not able to identify with any of the species of this genus hitherto described.

Sphærodactylus amazonicus n. sp.

Snout rounded, as long as the orbital diameter, or as the distance between the eye and the ear-opening; the latter

small, oval, oblique. Rostral moderately large with a faint longitudinal cleft above. Nostril pierced between rostral, first labial and two nasal scales. Four upper, three lower labials, regularly decreasing in size behind, and followed by scales of ordinary size, which margin the angle of the mouth. Mental very large, arrow-shaped, the lateral parts reaching considerably behind the median one; a distinct median cleft; no chin-shields. No spine-like scale above the eye. Snout with rather large, flat, juxtaposed scales, regularly decreasing in size all over the head to occiput where they are minutely granular. Dorsal scales moderately large, subimbricate, keeled; 42—45 in a longitudinal row between the small occipital granules and a line touching the anterior parts of the hind limbs; the posterior scales are larger and more distinctly keeled than the anterior. Gular scales smooth, rather large, hexagonal, juxtaposed; the anterior largest, the posterior much smaller. Ventral scales somewhat larger than the dorsal, smooth, imbricate. Tail cylindrical, tapering, covered with scales similar to those on the body; as long as head and body.

Colour: Brown above, whitish below; the posterior part of tail brown even below; a dark streak from the snout to the eye, continued behind from the lower margin of the eye to the scapular region; a faint dark line on the occiput from the upper corner of the eye.

Measurements: Total length 13 + 12 mm. Width of head 2,1 mm. From snout to ear-opening 3,2 mm. Fore limb 4,5 mm. Hind limb 5,5 mm.

One specimen. Amazonas, Manaos, Lago Poraquecuare ¹³/₅ 1915. In the neighbourhood of the farm.

Uraniscodon tuberculatum n. sp.

Snout very short and rounded, nostril small, turned upwards, situated above canthus rostralis. Supraciliary edge projecting. Scales on upper side of head juxtaposed, irregular, provided with distinct tubercle-like keels, the upper edges of which sometimes are finely prickled. Supraocular scales similar to those of the head, but four of them are somewhat enlarged, forming a median row; interorbital region with two series of scales, diverging in front and behind.

Occipital very large, resembling that in *U. umbra* L. but still larger, as broad as long, much broader than half the breadth of the head. 6—7 upper and as many lower labials. Ear-opening large, the anterior border not denticulated. Two strong transverse lateral folds on the neck, viz. one oblique in front of the axil, and another straight immediately behind the tympanum. Between these begins a rather feeble gular

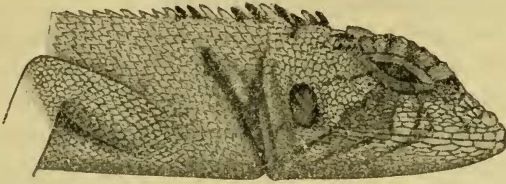


Fig. 1. *Uraniscodon tuberculatum* n. sp. ²/₁.
A. Österberg del.

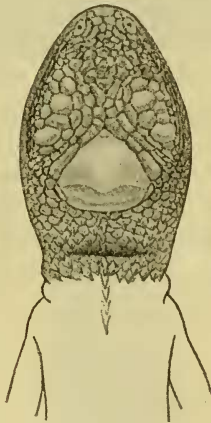


Fig. 2. *Uraniscodon tuberculatum* n. sp. ²/₁.
A. Österberg del.

fold which extends across the throat (on one side of the present specimen the skin of the neck is injured and the folds not well distinguishable). No longitudinal gular fold. Sides of neck without spines. Dorsal crest rather high on the nape; on the middle and on the hind part of the back it appears only as a row of distinctly keeled, somewhat mucronate scales. Body not depressed; dorsal scales as large as ventrals, keeled and mucronate, arranged in oblique rows, directed upwards. The adpressed hind limb reaches the an-

terior corner of the eye; the scales of the limbs resemble those on the body. Fingers and toes long and slender, and angularly bent at the articulations. Tail round, slender, tapering, twice as long as head and body; the scales of the tail sharply keeled, arranged in verticils, which are composed of five or six transverse rows of scales (five on the anterior, six on the posterior part); the scales in the hindmost row much larger than those in the others.

Colour in spirit: Greyish brown above, marbled with light and chestnut brown and with faint dark cross bands; there are three series (a median and two lateral ones) of light, rather indistinct spots and traces of the same distribution of the dark colour. The dorsal crest with alternating dark and white parts; a black spot on the antehumeral fold; two dark angular transverse bars between the eyes and a semilunar spot on the snout. Distinct narrow dark lines, or broad band radiate from the eye to the supraciliary edge, to the margin of the upper jaw and to the tympanum; a broad dark-edged band from the angle of the mouth to below the tympanum, and narrow lines on the chin extending backwards from the margin of the lower jaw. Other under parts of the body and the whole tail nearly uniformly greyish brown, the latter with indications of dark cross bars. Limbs, fingers, and toes marbled and barred with blackish brown.

One specimen from San Fermin, North Western Bolivia.
NILS HOLMGREN. 1904.

Measurements:

| | |
|--|--------|
| From tip of snout to vent | 53 mm. |
| Length of tail | 110 » |
| From tip of snout to hind margin of tympanum | 14 » |
| Breadth of head | 11 » |
| Length of snout | 6 » |
| Diameter of orbit | 4,5 » |
| Length of fore limb | 30 » |
| Length of hind limb | 43 » |

This species is apparently nearly allied to *U. umbra* L. but it appears to be well distinct from that one by a quite

different lepidosis of the head. In addition to this *U. umbra* has a »feeble longitudinal fold» on the chin, less raised supra-ciliary edge and a different colour, especially on the head. By the keeled scales of the head my species approaches *U. plica* L., but it differs from the same in many other points, especially in having a broader occipital, larger scales on the back and sides, keeled ventrals, and in the absence of lateral folds, spiny tufts, and serrated upper ridge of the tail.

Tretioscincus romani n. sp.

Body moderately elongate. Frontonasal very large and broad, forming a long suture with the rostral as well as with

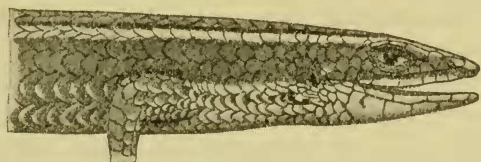


Fig. 3. *Tretioscincus romani* n. sp. $\frac{2}{1}$.
A. Österberg del.

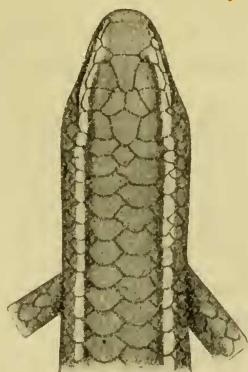


Fig. 4. *Tretioscincus romani* n. sp. $\frac{2}{1}$.
A. Österberg del.

the frontal. Præfrontals small, widely separated; frontal heptangular, the anterior part twice as broad as the posterior one, as long as, but much narrower than frontonasal. Two rather small frontoparietals; parietals short and very broad; interparietal broad, large, hexagonal, somewhat longer than

parietals; a trapezoid occipital behind interparietal and between the first median pair of dorsal scales. Nasal subtriangular, long and narrow with the large nostril pierced in the middle of its lower border, and touching the first supralabial; a large, squarish loreal, and behind and below this a subtriangular freno-orbital; two small præoculars; a row of three very narrow elongate infraorbitals; three postoculars, and two very large supraoculars, separated from the orbit by three elongate supraciliars. Temporals not distinct from the scales on the other anterior part of the sides. Eight upper labials; 1:st, 4:th, and 5:th largest; the two latter below the eye. Chin-shields, one anterior, and three pairs, forming a suture; six lower labials, the two or three hindmost ones much shorter than the anterior. Scales perfectly smooth on the body as well as on the greatest part of the tail; only the scales on the lower surface of the posterior part of the tail are sharply keeled. Sixteen scales round the body; twenty-six scales from the parietals to the base of the tail; sixteen transverse rows on the belly, counted from the fore limbs. Præanal scales six in two rows; five femoral pores on each side. Tail moderately long, tapering (the tip is broken in the present specimen). Fingers long and narrow, first rudimentary, second a little shorter than fifth, fourth longest; toes very long and slender, especially the fourth; the fifth reaches the tip of the second.

Colour above: Head bronzy brown, back olive green, tail purplish blue, all parts with metallic gloss. A light, dark-edged dorso-lateral line (yellowish white in front, greenish white behind) runs from the tip of the snout along the supraciliary edge to the base of the tail. Below this line the sides of head as well as those of the body are jet-black; the inferior margins of the supralabials are light. The colour of the under parts looks quite different when the animal lies in spirit than when it has been taken up from the jar and become to some extent dried in the air. In spirit the chin is yellowish white, all other parts more or less bluish; the throat is uniform greenish blue, which colour gradually changes into black posteriorly, being effected by the following arrangement. Only the posterior parts of the scales of the belly are blue, the anterior parts black, but the latter colour increases more and more on the posterior scales. The under surface of the

tail in spirit purple. When the animal has been taken up from the spirit the whole under surface soon becomes enamel white, except on the throat which retains a faint bluish green colour; these whitish scales are marked behind with a row of very minute black dots, only discernible under the magnifying glass. The blue colour of the throat is sharply defined from the black of the sides. On the body this limit is not so well marked as on the neck, the two next rows below the black lateral band being partly black, partly light (white or bluish green).

A male specimen from Amazonas, Manaus, Bosque Municipal, $\frac{5}{8}$ 1914 in a rotten stump in the forest.

Measurements:

| | |
|---|--------|
| From tip of snout to vent | 49 mm. |
| Length of tail (slightly broken) | 63 » |
| » of head to hind margin of parietals | 8,9 » |
| Width of head | 7,5 » |
| From tip of snout to fore limb | 18,3 » |
| Length of fore limb | 17 » |
| » of hind » | 25 » |

This new species corresponds rather well with *T. bifasciatus* A. DUM. especially in the colour, but it differs widely from the same by quite smooth scales on the body and on the anterior part of the tail, and by the arrangement of the shields of the head. In *T. bifasciatus* the præfrontals are broadly in contact, the frontonasal is much smaller and angular behind, frontal hexagonal and nearly as broad posteriorly as anteriorly, interparietal longer, narrower, and distinctly tapering behind. There is only a single long and narrow infraorbital below the eye. In addition to this the scales on the body are smaller (29 transverse rows on the back, and 19 on the belly). It appears also that the hind limbs are shorter in *T. bifasciatus*. BOUCOURT states the length of the hind limbs to be only 20 mm in a specimen which measures 52 mm between end of snout and vent (BOUCOURT: Miss. Sc. Mex. Rept., 453), and in a specimen, examined by myself and measuring 53 mm from end of snout to vent, the hind limb is 23,5 mm, and does not reach the axilla. In the pre-

sent specimen which only measures 49 mm between snout and vent the hind limbs are 25 mm in length and reaches somewhat beyond the axilla.

By the smooth scales my species corresponds with *T. lævicauda* COPE which, however, has the tail entirely smooth. The colour pattern of this latter species appears also to be different from that of the present species, and I venture to presume that the differences regarding the plates of the head and the scales of the body which, as stated above, exist between *T. bifasciatus* and *T. romani* are to be found between this latter and *T. lævicauda* as well. This opinion is founded on the fact that COPE does not mention anything about the plates and the scales, when he enumerates the few differences which he is able to state between his species, *T. lævicauda*, and the older *T. bifasciatus*. It seems thus to be very probable that no such differences exist between them, and that all the characteristics which I have recorded being of distinguishing value in this case between *T. romani* and *T. bifasciatus* may also distinguish the former from *T. lævicauda*.

Mabuia nigropalmata n. sp.

Snout depressed, obtuse. Lower eyelid with an undivided transparent disk. A postnasal; anterior loreal narrowly in contact with the first labial; supranasals completely separated by the frontonasal, the hind margin of which is angulate; præfrontals forming a suture mesially. Frontal small, angulate in front, much narrowed behind, in contact with the second supraocular and usually also with a narrow wedge of the first of these shields. Four supraoculars, second largest, five supraciliaries; frontoparietals united into a single shield; interparietal somewhat larger than the frontal; parietals in contact behind the interparietal. Three (two) pairs of nuchals, four or five supralabials anterior to the subocular. Ear-opening small, rounded, without projecting lobules. Scales smooth, 26—30 round the middle of the body, a little larger on the back than on the sides. Limbs overlapping, when adpressed against the body. Subdigital lamellæ smooth; tail $1\frac{1}{2}$ the length of head and body.

Brown above with two longitudinal series of black spots on the back, converging to a median stripe on the base of the tail; a black band on the sides from the eye passing above the axil and groin to the tip of the tail, bordered above and below by light. The lower bordering line commences on the snout, runs along the upper lip, through the tympanum above the shoulder to the groin; its anterior part (on the lip and neck) is very distinct. Below this line the sides are densely dotted with black. In the young the whole side is black, the broad black band divided into two by a light line. Lower parts metallic bluish green or bluish white. Under parts of feet black.

One specimen from Brazil, Amazonas, Rio Curuca, tributary to R. Javary 1913—1915. Presented by SR V. MOREIRA DE OLIVEIRA to A. ROMAN. Four specimens from San Fermin, N. W. Bolivia, in the forest district; N. HOLMGREN 1904.

This new species appears to be allied to *M. frenata* COPE which species, however, has supranasals in contact behind the rostral, præfrontals separated, one (two) pairs of nuchals, 30 or 32 scales round the body etc. Also the geographical distribution appears to be different.

Measurements of the largest specimen:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total length | 60 + 88 mm. |
| From tip of snout to ear | 12 » |
| Length of snout | 4,3 » |
| Diameter of orbit | 3,7 » |
| Breadth of head | 7,3 » |
| Length of fore limb | 16,5 » |
| » of hind » | 22,5 » |

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